

NAYS—17

Barrett (WI)	Lee	Sanders
Chenoweth-Hage	McInnis	Sanford
Coble	Miller, George	Schaffer
Conyers	Paul	Stark
DeFazio	Ramstad	Tancredo
Frank (MA)	Roemer	

NOT VOTING—17

Ackerman	Ford	Martinez
Armey	Greenwood	McCollum
Becerra	Gutierrez	McIntosh
Campbell	Klink	Vento
Clay	Lazio	Wise
Eshoo	Linder	

□ 1424

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida changed his vote from "nay" to "yea".

So the conference report was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATING RON LASCH ON HIS RETIREMENT

(Mr. THOMAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I have asked to speak out of order for 1 minute because there is a situation here on the floor that may not recur again. There are many new Members here who are beginning to learn that this institution could not run without the staffs that sometimes are never acknowledged or recognized but go about their work very quietly and efficiently.

Unfortunately, someone who had been of great assistance to our side of the aisle for more than 42 years decided to leave just as quietly and efficiently as he had carried out his job over the years. I am not able to deal with the efficiency of his leaving, but I do think we can deal with the quietness.

Somewhere back there is the gentleman by the name of Ron Lasch. I would ask Ron Lasch to come to the floor. Mr. Speaker, as usual, Ron Lasch is not to be found. But for 42 years, he provided this House with good counsel and assistance in doing our jobs.

There are a number of people who make our jobs possible who do not get the desired or needed or worthy recognition. I just thought it would be nice, since he may not be able to be here again or he will not be here again after this particular occasion, to say to one of our long-time employees, thank you very much, Ron Lasch.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. THOMAS. I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I am sorry that Ron is not on the floor, but I want to rise on behalf of all of us on this side of the aisle. The gentleman from California indicated that Ron Lasch has been helpful to his side. That is of course very true. He is, after all, assigned that responsibility.

On the other hand, I want my colleagues to know and I want everybody to know that those of us on this side of the aisle who happened to be on the gentleman's side of the aisle and needed a question answered felt very comfortable talking to Ron Lasch. Because Ron Lasch, although he served in a partisan role, clearly felt himself an institutional person who wanted to facilitate the workings of this institution on behalf of the American people.

I want to join the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), the chairman of the Committee on House Administration in saying that we share his congratulations and appreciation for all the work that Ron Lasch has done and the service that he has performed for everybody on the floor of the House and for the American public.

Mr. KASICH. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. THOMAS. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. KASICH. Mr. Speaker, I happen to know Mr. Lasch is, in fact, seeing this telecast, and he ought to come to the floor if he can. But I think that what is most important about Ron Lasch is that, as he sat in the back, he was always kind of a governor on sometimes the crazy emotions that this House gets itself whipped up into.

What Ron Lasch is always able to do is to really, he has been around so long, is to be so grounded and to immediately translate a sense of responsibility and a sense of self-control and a sense of humility to every Member. If Ron looked one in the eye and called one on something, one listened to him. Because he had seen so much, and he had such a great sense of this place.

Many times, Members of Congress get, as we all do in life, get full of ourselves. Ron Lasch is one guy that always said, Wait a minute. Remember, you came in here. It is a privilege to serve, and you are going to leave this place. And trust me, when you go out the door, you are only what you are when you came in the door, just another human being trying to do a job.

□ 1430

And he is a great, great guy, I think one of the best that we have ever had in this House; and the House will very much miss him. But I have a suspicion that he will move in and out.

To the younger Members, they should avail themselves of Ron Lasch in these last couple weeks that he will be around this floor.

Speaking for many of the Members who have been here for a long time, I think it would be fair for me to say, Ron Lasch, thank you, God bless you, and Godspeed.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for bringing Ron's name

before us once again. He left us so suddenly, none of us really had an opportunity to wish him well or to say a proper goodbye.

Ron served both sides of the aisle in an appropriate manner. He was not only a time keeper, a controller of emotions in the back of the room, but he was a good advisor.

I had the opportunity of having Ron join us on several of our CODELs where he added a great deal and was able to exchange thinking with parliamentarians overseas.

So I thank the gentleman for raising this. We wish Ron good health and happiness in his retirement.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE).

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I say I can say without fear of contradiction that I probably have known Ron Lasch longer than any other person in this Chamber because Ron Lasch and I came to Congress together as pages just a few months apart when we were at the age of 16 years.

Earlier this summer we did some tributes to Ron Lasch but, of course, he chose, as he has today, to not be here on the floor.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, we almost got him.

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will continue to yield, we almost got him today. The gentleman is absolutely right.

So I would simply repeat what I said in that tribute, and that is that this body is poorer for his absence; and we have been richer as an institution for what he brought to this body, the sense of calm, the sense of history, the sense of understanding of where this place is and where it is going.

I think that he has elevated and has leavened this body I think substantially. I believe that the House of Representatives will miss him tremendously. I know all of us individually will. I wish him well.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, just let me say that, as we move into this period in which demands are going to be made that are actually inhumane and we expect materials to be prepared in absolute time frames, for those staff who are here and continue to carry on the work, I just think that they also need to get recognition, credit, and a "thank you" ahead of time. All too often we fail to say, it is not just us. Because, without them, it would not be us.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN).

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I commend Ron Lasch. He is a real loss to our Chamber. We all know him as an institutional citizen dedicated to the House of Representatives and dedicated to legislative government.

On a trip to Australia and New Zealand where we met with cabinet ministers and members of their parliament who had made their governments more effective and efficient, Ron was a great asset to us given his knowledge about comparisons he had seen in other parts of the world.

He knew the great history of the House of Representatives. He was dedicated. He is a very humble person, who helped many of us when as newcomers we sought his advice. And anyone that did not ask his advice should have because they would then have learned what kind of fine institution is the House of Representatives. He provided good advice to those who wanted to become effective legislators.

It is good to see Ron back. I hope that he will take these various encomiums with the respect and affection of his elected friends as he retires from the House that was his home for so long.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Chair of the Committee on Appropriations and the ranking member for allowing us to disrupt the proceedings.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks regarding consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 4516 and that the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. TAYLOR) and the

gentleman from Arizona (Mr. KOLBE) may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4516, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 565, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 4516) making appropriations for the legislative branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the conference report is considered as having been read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of legislative day of July 26, 2000 at page H7095.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to bring this conference report to the House. It was ready for consideration by the House before we recessed for our respective political conventions. But because of the schedule, we are just

now getting to it today. The conference report includes three bills that have already been passed by the House.

As my colleagues know, Mr. Speaker, the House has passed all 13 of our appropriations bills. We also passed the major supplemental that was requested by the President this year. We have already considered the conference report on that supplemental and on the Defense appropriations bill and the Military Construction appropriations bill. And so, we are on the move here.

I am happy to report that this conference report includes the Legislative Branch appropriations bill and also the Treasury Postal bill, which funds in part the executive offices of the Executive Branch of Government, including the White House.

It also includes a bill that was passed in the House by a vote of 420-2 on repeal of the Spanish-American War tax on telephone services.

And so, we have those three bills that passed the House with substantial votes included in this conference report. Even the Treasury Postal bill passed the House by a vote that could be considered a landslide relative to previous votes. We passed that bill by a vote of 216-202. That is a lot better vote than we usually get on that bill. Nevertheless, we have worked hard with our counterparts in the other body, and we bring this conference report today.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the following table for the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Bill, 2001: